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Ambassador Tours Lewis Center



Abe Silverstein, director of Lewis Research Center (left), headed a briefing for Llewellyn E. Thompson, ambassador to Russia, when the State Department group toured the NASA laboratories here.

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U. S. Envoy to Soviet Tours NASA Here

By CHARLES TRACY
Aviation Writer

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Llewellyn E. Thompson, U. S. ambassador-designate to Russia, toured NASA's Lewis Research Center here today and was briefed on major space projects assigned to Clevelanders.

Thompson smiled but said he could not answer when asked how the U. S. space program compared to Russia's. He returns to Moscow Jan. 4, he said.

Accompanying Thompson were six top officials of the State Department, classified as "opinion makers" for the Government by a spokesman in Washington.

They are touring major NASA facilities in preparation for making recommendations for U. S. space projects following the Apollo landing on the moon in 1970.

NASA's top officials, according to Washington sources, hope to convince Thompson and his party that interplanetary space exploration is a realistic goal.

scientific teams active and progressive.

THOMPSON and his group leave tonight for Cape Kennedy to witness blastoff of Gemini-12 Thursday.

Accompanying Thompson were these State Department officials:

Ambassador George V. Allen, director, Foreign Service Institute; Anthony M. Solomon, assistant secretary of economic affairs; Herman Pollock, acting director, scientific and technical affairs; Joseph Satterthwaite, consultant to NASA and retired ambassador; William Morell, director of research and reports, Central Intelligence Agency; and John Townsend, deputy director of